GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2559
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2016
Prices of Fruits and Vegetables
Rajoria Dr. Manoj

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the fact that the prices of fruits and vegetables increase several fold and even upto five times when they reach retail markets from mandi/wholesale market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken/being taken by the Government to tackle the said problem;

(c) whether the Government can assure that the gap between wholesale and retail prices will be bridged;

(d) if so, whether the Government is contemplating on fixing the maximum profit margin by capping the price margin of fruits and vegetables; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which the maximum profit margin of fruits and vegetables is likely to be fixed?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) to (c): A statement showing monthly all India average wholesale and retail prices of major fruits and vegetables in 2016 is given at annexure, which shows retail price increased by 27.9% (minimum) to 85.9 % (maximum) as compared to wholesale price.

Reasons for fluctuations in prices include seasonality of production, perishable nature of these commodities and mismatch in demand and supply. The difference between wholesale and retail prices depend on a number of factors such as, number of intermediaries from wholesale mandi to consumers, transportation cost, loading/unloading expenses, grading/sorting, wholesaler's margins, wastages during movements/weighting, location of retail shop etc.

Government has taken steps towards market reforms. States/ UTs have been advised to amend their respective State APMC Acts. Government has launched the e-National Agricultural Market (eNAM) to ensure better price discovery for agriculture produce.

(d) & (e): No, Madam.